Criteria: Independent, Instructional, and Frustration Levels

Independent Level

The level at which a student can read and comprehend without assistance.

Word Identification in Isolation: 90% or higher
Obtained from word lists

Word Identification in Context: 98% or higher
Obtained from oral reading of passages

Comprehension: 90% or higher

Instructional Level

The level at which a student can be instructed profitably.

Word Identification in Isolation: 70% to 89%
Obtained from word lists

Word Identification in Context:
Obtained from oral reading of passages
90% to 97%: Total Accuracy
95% to 97%: Total Acceptability

Comprehension: 70% to 89%

Frustration Level

The level at which a student is completely unable to read with adequate word identification or comprehension.

Word Identification in Isolation: Less than 70%
Obtained from word lists

Word Identification in Context:
Obtained from oral reading of passages
Less than 90%: Total Accuracy
Less than 95%: Total Acceptability

Comprehension: Less than 70%

Formula for Determining Percentages:

Word Identification in Isolation (word lists):
   Number of words correctly identified ÷ total number of words on the list (20).
Word Identification in Context (oral reading of passages):
   (Number of words in passage – number of miscues) ÷ number of words in passage
Comprehension (questions):
   Number of questions correctly answered ÷ total number of questions

Rate

To obtain the reading rate in words per minute, use the following formula:

\[ WPM = \frac{\text{Number of words in the passage} \times 60}{\text{number of seconds it took to read the passage}} \]

\[ \text{CWPM (correct words per minute)} = WPM - \text{miscues} \]